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12¢

# BATMAN



# BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER

## "BLIND AS A... BAT?"

STORY BY FRANK ROBBINS; ART BY IRVY MIVICK & JOE GIELLA

A BLIND MAN FOUND MURDERED... A CRYPTIC... ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE MESSAGE SCRATCHED ON A WALL BY THE DYING MAN'S CANE...

COMMISSIONER GORDON... THEY FOUND OUT I'M BATMAN!

I AM BLIND

AND DESPITE THE REAL BATMAN'S PROOF THAT THE DYING MAN'S HAND WAS GUIDED BY THE KILLER... HE IS "HELD ON SUSPICION" BY COMMISSIONER GORDON... CHARGED WITH BEING HIS OWN IMPOSTOR!

HELPLESS, THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER EMPLOYS A RUSE TO ENABLE ROBIN TO ESCAPE IN AN ATTEMPT TO TRACK DOWN THE "KILLER"... AT THE SAME TIME PALMING A TINY OBJECT FOUND IN THE DEAD MAN'S EAR!

OPERATION... THIS IS NOT A BLINDFOLD TO SCHEMER! ROBIN'S ESCAPED! GET HIM... DEAD OR ALIVE!

AND... THIS IS NOT A HEARING AID! IT'S A FIXED-FREQUENCY RECEIVER... AND... ROBIN'S IN MORTAL DANGER!

INDEED HE IS! AS ONE OF THE EVIL SCHEMERS "BLIND" SPOTTERS STAKED OUT AROUND GOTHAM CITY FIRES A MINI-MISSILE AT THE BOY WONDER!

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! BUT... WE HAVEN'T EVEN PICKED UP THE GOLD YET!

AND BOTH THE BANK... AND OUR ROUTE HAVE BEEN KEPT TOP SECRET! TAKE EVASIVE... FULL SPEED!



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AND SECONDS LATER, TO AVOID HITTING THE ARMORED TRUCK, COMMISSIONER GORDON'S CAR HITS A LAMPPOST... AND BATMAN TUMBLES OUT!



ESCAPING, BATMAN IS STUNNED IN A COLLISION WITH ONE OF THE SCHEMER'S MEN, AS THE "MAN WITH THE COMPUTER-BRAIN" RECEIVES A REPORT FROM ONE OF HIS SPOTTERS...

"OBJECTIVE" TRUCK SPEEDING TOWARD GRID-AREA 11.

THEN THEIR TARGET IS... THE FIRST FEDERAL BANK! CALL IN ALL STAKE-OUTS... CONVERGE ON TARGET USING OPERATIONAL PLAN "A" AT THE SAME TIME...

WHILE IN A DARK ALLEY, BATMAN'S HEAD QUICKLY CLEARS AS THE GRIM ORDERS COME THROUGH...

...YOU CAN POLISH OFF ROBIN!

AS SOON AS I POLISH OFF NUMBER ONE-- BATMAN! HAW! HAW!

IN AN INSTINCTIVE PROTECTIVE GESTURE, THE CAPED CRUADER THROWS HIS HANDCLIFFED HANDS UP IN FRONT OF HIMSELF... AT THE SAME TIME KICKING UPWARD AND...

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH "POLISH" JOKES TO DATE! BUT THANKS FOR SHINING UP MY BRACELETS!

JEWELRY LIKE THIS ISN'T WHAT IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE!

AND WHEN YOU PLAY BALL WITH ME... ONE STRIKE AT BAT... AND YOU'RE OUT!



BUT NO SOONER DOES THE COWLED CRIME-FIGHTER ELIMINATE ONE OPPONENT, THAN...

THERE HE IS... COMMISSIONER GORDON! AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STEPS...

OH... NO! I'D FORGOTTEN... I'M STILL A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE! AND I MUSTN'T BE RECAPTURED— NOW!



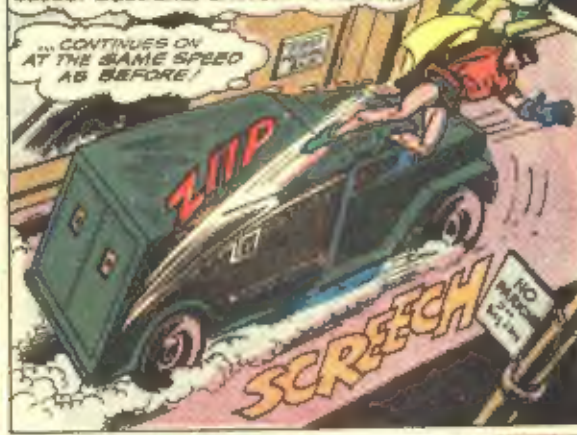
AND AS HIS ARMED PURSUERS CLOSE IN...

ROBIN'S LIFE MAY DEPEND ON MY STAYING... AT LIBERTY! WAIT! THERE IS A WAY!

AT THAT MOMENT, ROBIN'S LIFE IS VERY MUCH IN NEED OF SAVING, AS THE CREEPING ARMORED TRUCK SLEWS TO A PANIC-STOP AT THE FIRST FEDERAL BANK!

ABOUT TO BECOME VICTIM... OF IMMUTABLE LAW OF PHYSICS... THAT AN OBJECT DETACHED FROM MOVING OBJECT SUDDENLY BROUGHT TO REST...

...CONTINUES ON AT THE SAME SPEED AS BEFORE!



UNLESS... SPEED IS ABSORBED BY AN OBJECT IMPARTING PROGRESSIVE DECELERATION TO THE SPEEDING OBJECT!





IRONIC... I SHOULD BE  
SAVED BY THE SAME  
CHARACTERS THAT ARE  
TRYING TO DESTROY ME!

NOW TO FIND A  
GOOD HIDDEN  
VANTAGE POINT...  
WHERE I CAN  
SEE WHAT'S  
GOING ON AT  
THE BANK!

THEY'RE LOADING  
THE ARMORED  
CAR WITH...  
GOLD  
INGOTS!  
MILLIONS  
OF DOLLARS  
WORTH!

HURRY IT UP! SOMEONE  
TOOK A POT-SHOT AT US  
COMING HERE... MIGHT  
BE SHEER ACCIDENT,  
BUT I'M EDGY!

AN  
EDGINESS  
THAT IS QUITE  
JUSTIFIED, AS FROM  
ALL CORNERS OF GOTHAM  
CITY AN ARMY OF THE  
SCHEMER'S BLIND-SPOTTERS  
CONVERGES ON THE BANK SQUARE!

TAP.  
TAP!  
TAP!

ALARMED BY THE SUDDEN MENACE  
OF DISTANT CANES TAPPING... COMING  
CLOSER - AND CLOSER... THE BOY  
WONDER TAKES COVER JUST IN  
TIME!!

THE CRESCENDO OF APPROACHING TAPS... SUDDENLY  
STOPS! EQUALLY ALARMED, THE GUARDS STARE...

LIKE THEY  
CAME OUT OF  
NOWHERE!  
WHAT ARE  
THOSE BLIND  
MEN STARING  
AT?

TAP.  
TAP!  
TAP!

AND AS MORE MEMBERS OF OPERATION-BLINDFOLD JOIN THEIR SILENTLY LINED-UP COLLEAGUES...



THEY'RE B-BLOCKING THE STREETS OUT OF HERE! WHAT'RE THEY... BLIND OR SOMETHIN' F'ER... I MEAN...

I KNOW WHAT Y' MEAN... BUT WHAT ARE THEY... JUST STANDIN' THERE FOR?

AND WHILE THIS TENSION MOUNTS, WE SWITCH TO ANOTHER TENSE SITUATION, AS

COMMISSIONER GORDON! WE'VE GOT HIM... BATMAN!

IS IT POSSIBLE? HAS BATMAN BEEN RETAKEN? WHO WILL DEFEAT THE EVIL SCHEMER'S PLANS NOW?

THAT'S THE 'IMPOSTOR'! ALL RIGHT! WHO CLOUTED HIM?

HE DID...



B-BATMAN...? I-I DIDN'T KNOW...

H-HE RAN INTO ME... THOUGHT I WAS BEING ASSAULTED-- B-BUT I SWUNG! B-BUT... YOU SAID -- IMPOSTOR!

OF COURSE, YOU POOR MAN... YOU CAN'T SEE!



AND A PRETTY LOW ONE, TOO... ATTACKING A BLIND MAN! WE'LL THROW THE BOOK AT HIM!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? HOW DID THE SCHEMER'S "BLIND" MAN REGAIN THE UPPER HAND OVER THE CAPED CRUISADER?



AND AS  
THE POLICE  
DRAG THE  
UNRESISTING  
BATMAN  
AWAY...

UNFORTUNATELY THERE'S NO REWARD  
OUT FOR THIS... DISGUSTING  
CREATURE! BUT PLEASE  
ACCEPT MY PERSONAL  
GRATITUDE!

YOU REALLY  
SHOULDN'T  
KIND SIR!  
I JUST DID  
MY DUTY AS  
A GOTHAM  
CITIZEN!

I AM  
BLIND

BUT NO SOONER ARE THEY OUT OF... SIGHT?

THAT QUICK-CHANGE WAS WORTH  
THE COST OF ONE BATMAN  
OUTFIT! AT LEAST I'VE DELIVERED  
ONE OF THE SCHEMER'S MEN  
INTO POLICE HANDS...

NOW TO SAVE  
ROBIN... AND  
ROUND UP THE  
OTHERS! STRANGE  
GLASSES... THESE!  
WONDERED HOW  
THOSE PHONEY  
BLIND MEN  
COULD SEE  
THROUGH THEM...

I AM

WHILE BACK IN  
THE BANK SQUARE... AS  
THE LAST OF THE GOLD-  
BULLION IS LOADED  
ABOARD THE ARMORED  
TRUCK...

BEFORE, I  
COULD MAKE OUT DIMLY-  
LIT OBJECTS QUITE  
PLAINLY... BUT NOW...  
LOOKING DIRECTLY  
INTO A BLINDING  
MERCURY ARC  
VAPOR LAMP...

IT'S JUST A DULL GLOW!  
WHICH MEANS... THESE LENSES  
ARE MADE OF AUTOMATICALLY-  
ADJUSTING PHOTO-SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL. IR

\* HIGH-SENSITIVE LENSES THAT  
GET DARKER WHEN EXPOSED  
TO BRIGHTER LIGHT SOURCES!

SO THAT WAS  
WHAT THE BLIND  
MEN WERE  
WAITING FOR...  
A 'COPTER!

QUICK, JOE...  
LOCK UP THE  
BACK! I'LL  
START THE  
MOTOR!

CHUCKA-  
CHUCKA-  
CHUCKA

CONTINUED ON 258 PAGE FOLLOWING

AT THE SOUND OF THE CHOPPER, ROBIN CATCHES ALL CAUTION TO THE WINDS, AS...

BOMB... THE BANK-TRUCK! GOTTA STOP 'EM SOMEHOW...

ARE THEY GONNA...

R-ROBIN?



FIRED WITH RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION, THE BOY WONDER COMES OUT OF COVER, JUST AS...

NO, NO-- ROBIN! HOLD IT...

NO BLIND BAT... HOLDS... ME!



LIKE AN ALL-AMERICAN, ROBIN LINE-BACKS HIS WAY THROUGH A WALL OF LIVING FLESH...

GOTTA GIVE THOSE BANK-GUARDS A HAND!



BUT JUST AS HE PLUNGES THROUGH... THE SCHEMER'S 'COPTER DROPS ITS SECRET WEAPON... A BLINDING SUPER-MAGNESIUM FLARE!





AND AS THE LONG-PERSISTENCE FLARE SLOWLY DRIFTS DOWN... THE GUARDS ARE STRAPPED SHORT IN THEIR TRACKS-- BLINDED!

AND ALSO CAUGHT POINT-BLANK BY THE SUPER-BRILLIANT FLASH, THE BOY WONDER REELS AROUND... UNSEEING!

I--I'M BLIND!  
CAN'T SEE!

N-NEITHER  
CAN I...

POOR ROBIN...  
SO THAT'S THE  
SECRET OF THIS  
WHOLE "BLIND-  
FOLD" OPERATION...

"BLIND MAN" BRUCE CAN  
STILL SEE? HOW IS IT  
POSSIBLE...?

THE GLASSES!  
THE PHOTO-SENSITIVE  
LENSES AUTOMATICALLY  
ADJUST TO SHIELD US  
FROM THE INTENSE GLARE  
WHILE UNGUARDED EYES...

BUT HOW CAN  
I DEFEAT THIS  
DIABOLIC MOB...?

SUDDENLY,  
BRUCE'S  
WHIRLING THOUGHTS  
CATALYZE... AND A  
DARING PLAN FORMS IN  
HIS MASTER MIND!  
PUTTING THOUGHTS INTO ACTION...

I WANT TWO  
GIANT STEPS LEAD  
TO THAT ARMORED  
TRUCK... LET'S PLAY  
"JOHNNY ON THE PONY!"

I AM  
BLIND

(CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.)

8

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
TO ATTEND THE WEDDING  
OF LOIS LANE AND SUPERMAN  
IN THE GIANT LOIS LANE ISSUE  
ON SALE JULY 11th,  
AT YOUR NEWSDEALER!

 80 pg. GIANT GSL *All-Wedding Issue*  OCT. 1984

# LOIS LANE

25¢ *featuring* LOIS' SCHEMES AND DREAMS TO MARRY SUPERMAN!

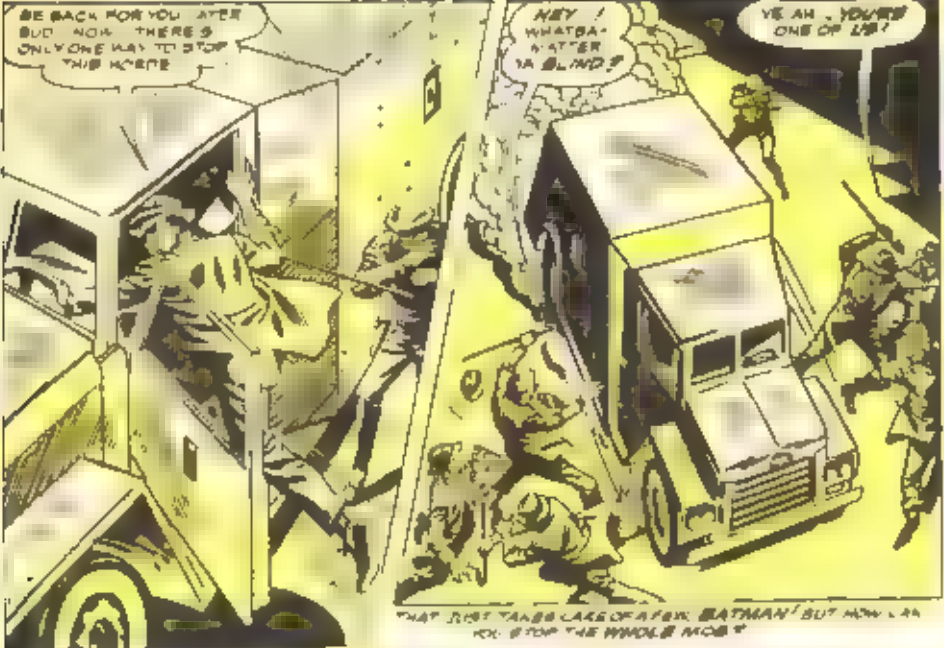


SHE WEDS HIM IN HIS CLARK KENT IDENTITY!

SHE ADOPTS A SECRET IDENTITY OF ANNE O'NEIL!

SHE EVEN MAKES A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL!



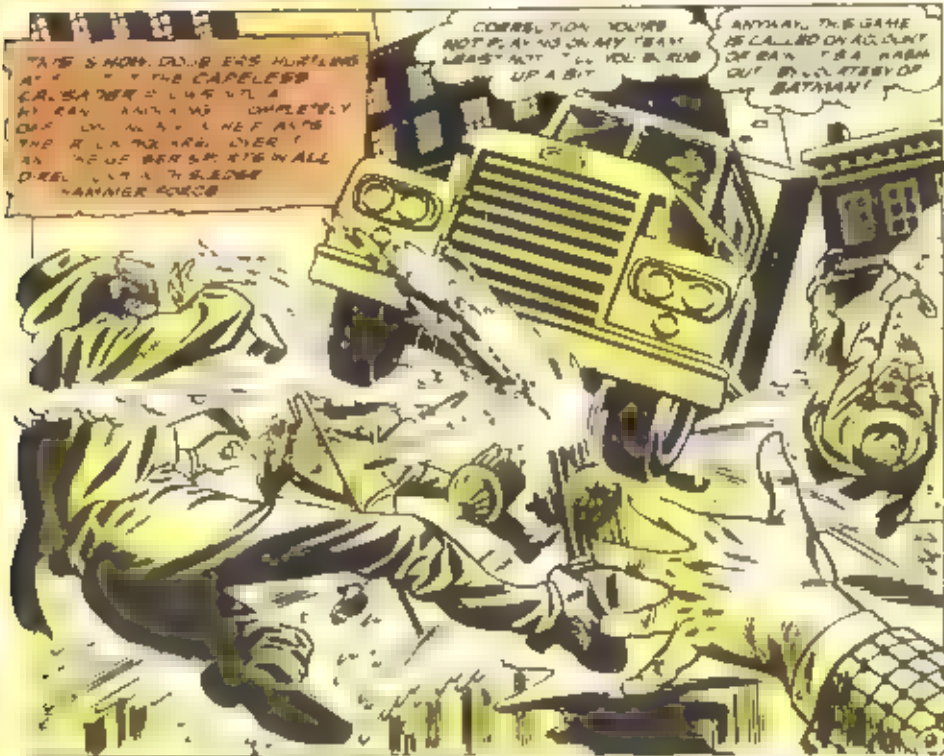


BE BACK FOR YOU AFTER  
BUD, NOW THERE'S  
ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP  
THIS MOBE

HEY! WHAT'S A-  
MATTER  
YA BLIND?

YE AH, YOU'RE  
ONE OF US!

THAT JUST TAKES CARE OF A FEW BATMAN! BUT HOW CAN  
YOU STOP THE WHOLE MOB?



"THIS SHOW DOESN'T END HERE!  
A" "THE CAPELESS  
CALIBER" "LIVE UP TO A  
HIT MAN AND HIS COMPLETELY  
OUT OF CONTROL LIES AND  
THE R L A TIONSHIP OVER  
AN "OF BERSERK WALL  
DUEL AT A TROUBLE  
HANGER FORCE"

CORRECTION YOU'RE  
NOT PLAYING ON MY TEAM  
LEAST NOT "L YOU B. RUB  
UP A BIT

ANYWAY, THE GAME  
IS CALLED ON ACCOUNT  
OF BATH "BA HANG  
OUT BY LATES OF  
BATMAN!

AND THEN THE BLINDING FLARE DROPS INTO THE FLOODED SQUARE FIZZLEB KNOWS BATMAN BRADSLAGS A MESSAGE "A-16 TRANSMITTER CAME TO THE HOVERING COPTER"

YOUR WHOLE OPERATION IS A FIZZLE SCHEMER JUST LIKE THAT DEAD "BLUNDER" GO KNOCK 'EM OFF WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD

**PHZZT!**

WHILE ABOVE CORRECTION. BATMAN!

PHASE 1 OF THE GAME IS YOURS...! BUT NOW WE ENTER PHASE 2! RIGHT BRAIN DRAIN?

WOOO-HOO HOOO HOOO!

LEAVING OFF BRUCE... WAS THE TRUCK OFF IN THE GUARDS AND BLITZED UP? HE HAS A PLAN TOWARD HE A REPORT

SCHEMER TO OPERATION BLINDFOLD PLAN A ABORTED! SWITCH TO PLAN B STEP 1 PICK UP ROBIN!

QUICKLY BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE BACKS THE TRUCK AROUND TO THE GUARDS...

CAN YOU SEE WELL ENOUGH TO DRIVE?

VISION IS KINDA SPOTTY BUT...

THEN HOP IN!

WHAT THE HELL HAS THE SCHEMER AND HIS MA. EVIL ENT COHORTS HATCHED? HIS FIRST SCHEME LAID ONE BIG OWL EGG WHAT NOW?

**?**





# "BLIND AS A... BAT?" PART 2

A SHORT TIME LATER IN RESPONSE TO BRUCE'S URGENT PHONE CALL

AND, AS SUDDENLY AND SILENTLY AS THEY CAME THE MEMBERS OF OPERATION: BLINDFOLD HAVE FALLEN AWAY LEAVING A FULSTRA'ED AND ANGRY BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE ALONE IN THE FLICKERED SQUARE

OH MY MASTER WAYNE I'LL CATCH YOUR DEATH PRIDLING ABOUT IN THAT PUDDLE COME UP AT ONCE S-R I HAVE A FRESH CHANGE OF CLOTHING WAIT NG

GOOD OLD ALFRED MY FA THELL BUTLER AND MOTHER MEN

GLAD YOU HAD MY OTHER BATMAN OUT T LAD OUT - SAVE MINE TO A "BRT" BLIND MAN

AND WHAT HAPPENED TO POOR YOUNG MASTER DICK? YOUR CALL WAS SO BRIEF WH WHERE IS HE NOW?

SCUTTLED BY THE SCHEMER, ALFRED PROBABLY HEADED FOR THE A REPLY NOW FOR ANOTHER STAB AT THE GOLD BULL ON SHIPMENT

CAN'T HE D ROBIN TH' WAY NEED BIG HELP IN A FLICKER

WHILE APPROACHING THE MARSHES BORDERING GOTHAM CITY BAY SITE OF GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

SOON YOUNG ROBIN YOU WILL SEE THE WIZARDRY OF THE SCHEMER'S WILY WIFE IN ACTION!



AND, AS CANN BREAKS



NOW WE APPROACH MY  
BASE OF OPERATIONS  
SOON WE WILL BE  
WHERE EVEN YOUR  
FEARLESS FERRET  
CANNOT FIND YOU

I-I SEE NOTHING BUT  
SEA MARSHES  
W-W-W-B-E ?

OPERATION BLINDFOLD HAS A  
MOST ART AND... WELL NAMED  
HIDE-OUT 'HAINAI



AND ON A TRANSMITTED SIGNAL FROM THE SCHEMER'S  
COPTER THE "DUCK BLIND" SUDDENLY RISES DISCLOSING



A MOST INGENUOUS "COVER" BY  
ROBIN & FLOATING DUCK DECOYS,  
AND, MY PER SCOPE AND  
ANTENNA DISCLOSED AS  
SHOTGUN BARRELS!

AS THE HATCH COVERS OPEN,  
AN ELEVATOR RISES TO  
MEET THE DESCENDING  
COPTER. THE "ROTOR-  
BLADES FOLDED. THE  
HE IPAD GOES DOWN  
SWALLOWING ROBIN  
AND THE  
SCHEMER!



EMERGED, ROBIN'S UNDERWATER  
PRISON ONCE MORE MEETS THE  
CASUAL EYE AS A PEACEFUL SYLVAN  
ALYBET'S RETIRE?

AND, BELOW

SUFFERING  
SUBSTANTIAL  
CAN'T SINK THAT!

OH, I CAN?  
I?

AND NOW I  
SUPPOSE YOUR  
TEEN AGE  
CURIOSITY KNOWS  
NO BOUNDS  
A GLANCE  
THROUGH HIS  
PERISCOPE  
SHOULD SATISFY  
THAT

A MOD ASTUTE QUERY  
FROM THE BOY WONDER  
AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE  
NOW AS THE  
SCHEMER SINK  
A TET CARGO  
PLANE?

HA THOSE  
WOULD BE GENIUSES HOPE TO  
OUTSMART THE SCHEMER BY DRIVING  
THE GOLD TRUCK DIRECTLY INTO THE  
AIR TRANSPORT WITH AN UNBREAKABLE  
ARMED RING AROUND T HA HA

I'D SAY T & RATHER  
CLEVER, THERE'S NOT  
A CHANCE YOU CAN

THE SCHEMER  
LEAVES NOTHING TO  
HAPPEN DURING THE  
GOLD SHIPMENT  
SINK NEARABLE  
ON THE GROUND?

THE SCHEMER  
ARRIVES AT  
A SILENT TALKING  
COVER CUES AND

BUT ONLY IT TAKES OFF,  
FANCK T DURING THE  
MINI POLARIS  
YET INSTEAD SALVAGING THE REASONS  
UNDERWATER WITH THIS SUB  
HOLD ON



YOUR PLAN IS VICIOUS... BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT

AND WHO'S TO STOP ME BATAHAN? IN THIS PREVIOUS TREN-TODDLER IN MY TENDER CLUTCHES? HA HA

HOO-HOO!



I FEAR THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SIR I'D MUCH PREFER BEING WITH THOSE DUCK "ANIMATROIDS" BELOW

OF COURSE... I'D MUCH PREFER GROUSE



WHILE APPROACHING GOTHAM AIRPORT...

HOW ARE WE GOING TO COPE WITH THIS LATION MASTER BRUCE?

FIRST ALFRED WE'RE GOING TO CASE THE AIRFIELD GULL-LADING AREA SEE IF WE CAN SPOT WHERE THE SCHEMER MIGHT LAUNCH AN ATTACK



I'D MUCH PREFER LESS OF YOUR GROUSING, ALFRED WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR WITS ABOUT US RIGHT NOW



BULLY FOR THEM, ALFRED THEY'RE ON THEIR TOES LEAS NOW YE CAN BE SURE HE SCHEMER WONT R A COPTER ASSAULT!

I SAY SR THEY'RE TRYING TO PUT HOLES IN OUR WITS

BY THEIR OVER-FLIGHT OF THE SENSITIVE AREA IS GREETED WITH AN ALERT WARNING



POW!

POW!

POW! POW!

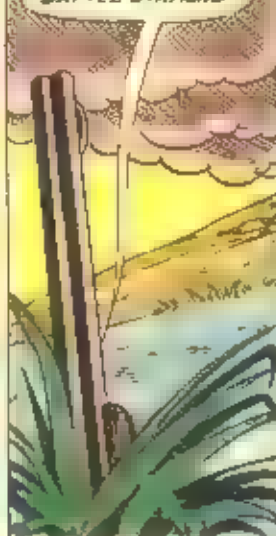
AND THAT "RING OF STEEL" AROUND THE CARGO PLANE IS A PRETEXT A GROUND ATTACK TO GET THEM SAFELY OFF AND AWAY. WHAT OTHER WAY CAN HE SCHEMER HIS THIEF?

I I CAN'T GUESS, SIR. WE'RE HAVING AS MUCH LUCK AS THOSE HUNTERS BELOW IN FINDING FLYING DUCKS!



WHILE IN THE INNOCENT-LOOKING SHELTER BELOW THE "SHOWS" A "PERISCOPE" TRAVERSES, AND,

LOADING COMPLETED PLANE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF FOR TAKE-OFF BATTLE STATIONS!

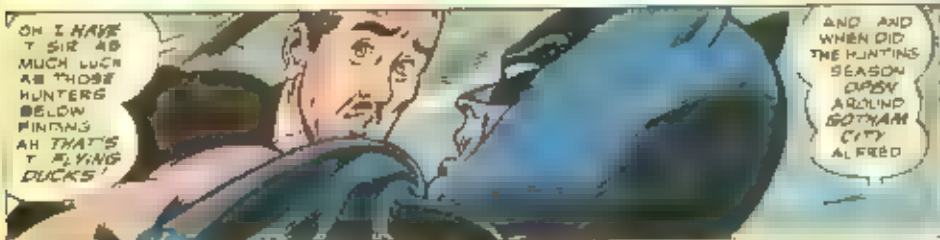


WHAT DID YOU SAY, ALFRED?

I SAY SIR, WHAT DID I JUST SAY?



OH I HAVE T SIR AS MUCH LUCK AS THOSE HUNTERS BELOW FINDING AH THAT'S T FLYING DUCKS!



AND WHEN DID THE HUNTING SEASON OPEN AROUND GOTHAM CITY, ALFRED?



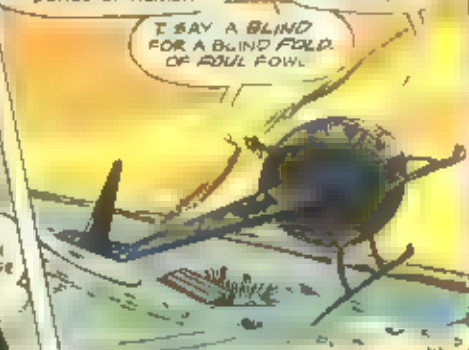
WHY, SIR, IT HASN'T AS YET IN DATE.

IN FACT, IT STARTS NEXT MONTH! WHICH MEANS, EITHER THOSE JOCKERS BACK THERE ARE POUCHERS, OR

THAT "DUCK BLIND" IS A BLIND FOR SOMETHING ELSE! AND IF I DID THE SCHEMER'S TWISTED SENSE OF HUMOR.

IT COULD BE A COVER FOR OPERAT ON-BLINDFOLD'S HIDE IT.

I SAY A BLIND FOR A BLIND FOLD OF ROUL FOWL.





WHILE BELOW BATMAN'S GROOPING FEET

WE'LL USE THE SOUND OF ITS ENGINES TO GUIDE OUR MINI-POLARIS TO ITS TARGET WHEN SHE'S AIRBORNE

GOLD-PLANE LINING UP ON RUNWAY FOR TAKE OFF SONAR MAN SWITCH ON OUR SUPER SENSITIVE SONIC DETECTOR

KEEP ER ALIVE IF I YANK ONCE, PULL ME UP REAL Q.L. IF TWICE TAKE OFF WITHOUT ME AND KEEP GOING

RATHER NASTY ALTERNATIVE SINCE I HOPE THOSE "DECOYS" AREN'T LURING THE WRONG BIRD

BUT NO SOONER IS THE ULTRA SENSITIVE DETECTOR SWITCHED ON THAN

ATCH! C-COPTER DIRECTLY OVERHEAD ... MOVING

W-WHA? COULD ONLY BE

WHILE ABOVE, THE CAPED CRIMINAL LANDS ON CAT'S FEET SILENTLY

BATMAN'S BATCOPTER! HIS PRESENCE HERE COULD DISRUPT OUR PLAN

A, COULD NG TOWER SO THAT'S HIS HIDE OUT AND ROBIN MUST BE INSIDE

NO TIME TO LOPE WITH BATMAN NOW, BUT WE CAN PREVENT HIS INTERFERING

TAKE ROBIN AND

HOW CAN I GET TO HIM? LOCKED FROM INSIDE

ENP-SUB-SURFACING! IF THEY SPOT MY COPTER OVERHEAD.

IS BATMAN GOING TO GIVE "THE FATAL SIGNAL," THAT WILL LEAVE HIM ALONE ON THE SUB?

TWO YANKS! WHICH  
IS MORE THAN ONE  
BRITISHER  
CAN STAND ON  
MASTER BRUCE  
MUST I  
LEAVE YOU?

AS ALFRED RELUCTANTLY REELS IN THE  
BAT-CABLE. THE SUB SURFACES!

OH POOR MASTER TRAPPED  
ON THAT UGLY SEA MONSTER!

FOR PETE'S SAKE ALFRED  
GO IN THE VEHICLE BE  
SNO TOWN

AND AS  
ALFRED A  
RESPONSE STARTS  
TO BLINK A PLEASANT  
SMILE

OPEN HELIPAD  
MATCH RACE  
ELEVATOR

NOW HEAR HIS  
BATMAN. HEAR THIS  
IF YOU MAKE ONE  
MOVE IN THE  
DIRECTION

AS THE HELIPAD ELEVATOR COMES INTO VIEW

WE'LL  
SUBMERGE!  
NEEDLESS TO  
SAY OUR JUNIOR  
CRIME-FIGHTER'S  
DAYS WILL BE  
OVER... AND  
UNDER!

HE THINKS  
TO BOARD  
THE BATCOPTER.  
IS HE GOING  
TO GET AN  
ADVANTAGE BUT  
HOW DO I MOVE  
AGAINST HIM  
WITH ROBIN SO  
VULNERABLE  
FOR REPRISAL?



AND AS THE GOLD-CARRIER  
STARTS DOWN THE RUNWAY

SONIC DETECTOR  
REVEALS TAKE-OFF  
SCHEMER!

PREPARE MISSILE FOR  
FIRING  
MUST NOT  
PLANE WHEN  
WE'LL NEVER  
DAY

THAT PLANE'LL BE A  
SITTING DUCK WITH  
MORE LIVES AT STAKE  
THAN JUST ROBIN'S!

HA! THE  
SHOT GUY  
MAY BE THE  
ANSWER

GOTTA MOVE  
NOW!

THE  
SCHEMER CHASE  
ME IN MY  
THAT "HIER  
AND UNDER"

IF U LOST THE CLUE, OR  
CUE READER SEE LAST  
PANEL OF PREVIOUS PAGE

AS THE PLANE TAKES OFF, AND THE SCHEMER STARTS HIS  
COUNT-DOWN... BATMAN SPRINGS INTO ACTION

...EIGHT SEVEN  
SIX

WHOO-  
HOOT!

SHALL I SAY  
FIRE?

BATMAN IS  
GETTING  
BRAIN DRAIN

I CAN STILL FIRE  
THE MISSILE FROM  
UNDERWATER

BAM

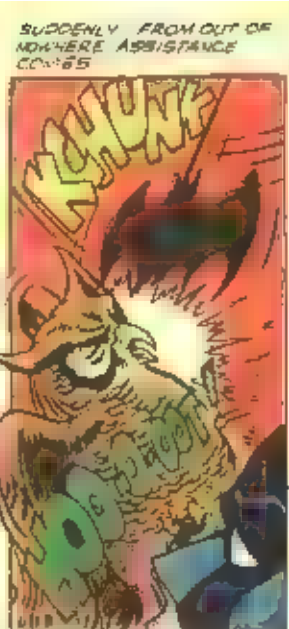
AS THE OUTLANDISH ONE COMES AT HIM, TALON EYES REAR UP, GRIPPING THE PLANE'S WING  
BATMAN, CAUGHT OFF BALANCE FIRES BOTH BARRELS HARMLESSLY INTO THE SKY

(CONTROLS ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING)



DESPERATELY TRYING TO  
KRAK ON THE CAPED  
CRUSADER SENDS OFF  
A WHISPER AND THE  
PERFECT NIGHT-HUNTER  
TRYING TO GET AT HIS EYES...

BLASTED BIRD I CAN'T  
LET SCHEMER SUBMERGE  
OR ROBIN'S DEAD



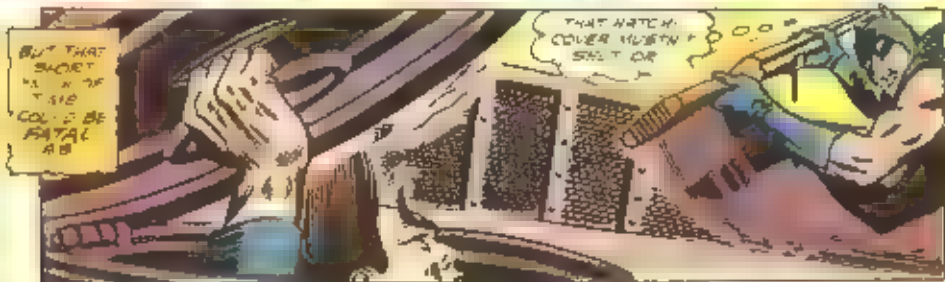
SUDDENLY FROM OUT OF  
NOWHERE ASSISTANCE  
COMES

KHUNK



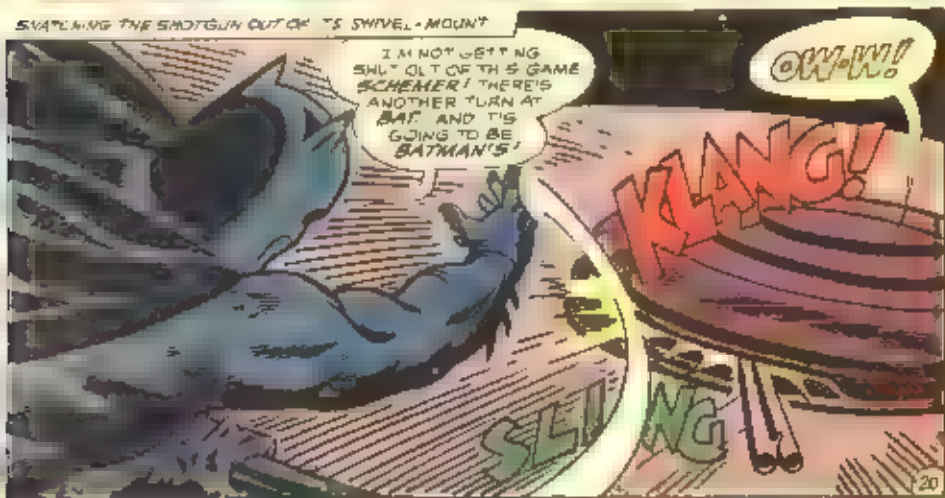
A BATCABLE  
BULL'S-EYE!  
OR RATHER I  
SHOULD SAY  
BULL'S-EYE!  
FINE GROUND  
HUNT THIS  
TURNED OUT  
TO BE

GOOD OLD  
A FRED  
ALMA'S IN THE  
VCA THE  
PERFECT  
BUTLER



BUT THAT  
SHORT  
FALL  
COULD BE  
FATAL  
AS

THAT HATCH  
COVER MUSTN'T  
SHUT OR



SWITCHING THE SHOTGUN OUT OF ITS SHIELD-MOUNT

I'M NOT GETTING  
SHUT OUT OF THIS GAME  
SCHEMER! THERE'S  
ANOTHER TURN AT  
BAT AND IT'S  
GOING TO BE  
BATMAN'S!

OW-WO!

KLANG!

SLING



WITH A  
MISERY  
BUT THE  
MARKED  
MAYHEM  
BE TO A  
SASSY  
SCHEMER OUT  
OF HIS ALEN  
LIKE A FISH  
OUT OF WATER

YOU'RE  
TAKING  
TO FROM  
BACK TO

WE HAVE  
TO PREPARE  
YOU FOR THE  
FRYING PAN

HERE  
ALFRED TH SE  
AREN'T JUST CABIN BOYS  
BRINGING OUR  
FISH N' CHIPS

HAVE YOU OUT  
OF THESE NASTY  
CLAMPS IN A  
SECOND YOUNG  
ROBIN!

PUTTING THE  
BATCOPTER ON  
ALFRED'S  
FLIGHT ALFRED  
ASSAULTS A  
RECKLESS THE  
POOR OLD ROBIN,  
AS OUT OF A  
DECK MATCH

USING THE  
HISSE-ON TS  
SH-LEL WONT AS A  
GIANT MERRYGO ROUND  
THE TEEN TITAN EARS VTO  
THE TEEETER NO "REA'S

TIME FOR A  
EAN SWEEP  
YOU DECK  
SWABS

WHILE ATOP  
THE CONNING  
TOWER, THE  
CAPED  
CRUSADER  
CUTS A WIDE  
SWATH IN A  
HALL OF  
MENACING  
FLESH,  
USING A  
LIVING  
MAN-BAT!

THAT'S USING YOUR HEAD,  
SCHEMER... FOR A GOOD PURPOSE!  
AND NEXT TIME AROUND... YOU BETTER  
SETTLE FOR THE BRASS RING,  
CAUSE...

**TECHOK!**

**RATZ!**

...THE  
GOLD WENT  
THATAWAY!

LATER...  
AT POLICE  
HEADQUARTERS...

LOOKS LIKE  
THE SCHEMER  
SCHEMED HIM-  
SELF INTO JAIL.  
EH, BATMAN...  
ROBIN?

WITH A  
SLIGHT ASSIST  
FROM A PAIR OF  
"IMPOSTORS,"  
COMMISSIONER  
GORDON?

DON'T RUB IT IN...  
PLEASE? I MUST  
ADMIT THE  
MURDERED "BLIND-  
MAN" PLANT  
THREW ME!

FUNNY, YOUNG  
MASTER ROBIN... NOW  
EVEN THOUGH NASTY  
BLIGHTERS ALWAYS GET  
IT IN THE END-- THEY  
DON'T GET IT!  
THE LOOK... THE  
SWAG... GET IT?  
THE JOKE... THAT  
IS F HAW!

HAW... YOURSELF,  
ALFRED!



...UNTIL WE LATCHED ON TO THIS PHONEY YOU DRESSED IN YOUR OUTFIT, BATMAN! HE CONFESSED THAT THE REAL BLIND MAN... THE VICTIM...

...HAD BEEN HIRED BY THE SCHEMER TO TRAIN THE MEMBERS OF HIS MOB HOW TO ACT BLIND... SO THEY COULD FOOL ANYONE...



PRECISELY, ROBIN! THEN... BECAUSE THE SIGHTLESS MAN KNEW TOO MUCH... AND BECAUSE THE SCHEMER WANTED ME TO THINK...

...I WAS DEAD, SO YOU'D PUT ME AWAY AS AN IMPOSTOR... AND LEAVE THE FIELD CLEAR FOR HIS NEFARIOUS OPERATION--BLINDFOLD!



HE SURE PULLED THE WOOL OVER MY EYES, MEN!

WHICH PROVES YOU SHOULDN'T VIEW THE WORLD WITH... BLINDERS ON!

OR BELIEVE... ALL BATS ARE--BLIND!



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# LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor:

For once, instead of giving a detailed analysis of a comic, I'd like to give my first impressions of it. These impressions are received the very first time one peruses an issue.

Naturally, the cover is the very first thing that hits a person, and the cover of *Batman* #201 intrigued me. It definitely was *not* done by Carmine Infantino, but I did not dwell on it. Eagerly, I opened the magazine to discover just why *Gotham City* policemen were gunning for *Batman*. About fifteen minutes later, I put it down and felt three different things, all at the same time: enjoyment, satisfaction, expectation.

*Enjoyment* because the issue was fun; all through "Batman's Gangland Guardians" was plenty of *Bataction* featuring some mob trying to wipe out our *Caped Crusader*—while seven of his cleverest foes try to prevent it—and succeeding. And, best of all, not once through the entire tale did *Batman* suspect just who it was helping him.

Now to my second impressionistic feeling: *satisfaction*. I was glad that the story hadn't turned into the cliché proposed by the cover—that of *Batman* momentarily being a criminal and having a short fight for his life against the fates he's always worked hand-in-hand with. Also *satisfaction* because *Batman* didn't, as I expected, crash into the hideaway of the *Gangland Guardians* on the last page of the story.

And this is where *expectation* comes in, for *Batman* now has a grand total of eight foes to match wits with in issues to come—and any one of these eight have been enough in the past to keep *Batman* busy for at least half an issue.

Ah, yes—there is one other impression I received when I first read this issue. In the lettercol we fans were challenged to spot this issue's cover artist, and as soon as I took another look at the cover one name popped into my head—Joe Giella. The more I thought about it, the more it seemed to fit: it looked like Giella all the way—pencils and inks. (And since I saw mentioned in a fanzine that Joe Giella will be doing future work on *Batman*, how could I possibly be wrong?)

—Jim Vleck, Scarborough, Ont., Can.

(How you could possibly be so wrong is obligingly revealed by another cover-artist-spotter—who used *Batman*-technique to solve the problem. —Editor)

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Dear Editor:

I believe I have solved the guess-the-artist-puzzle for the cover of *Batman* #201. — (thanks to a neat bit of deduction! On the cover of *Detective Comics* #374 there appears a newspaper in the background. The headline is barely readable, but the letters form the name *Irving Novick*. Place the covers of *Detective* #374 and *Batman* #201 next to each other and you will find that the figures of *Batman* are nearly identical! I'll place my bet on Novick as the mystery artist of *Batman* #201!

—Mark Dillman, Topeka, Kans.

(You win a check-mark, Mark, for correctly identifying the cover-artist—but a wrong-mark goes to another Mark on the story's writer. —Editor)

Dear Editor:

I'm going to guess that the story in *Batman* #201 was written by Mike Friedrich. If we begin with the so-obviously-drawn-by-Irv-Novick-cover, we see a trite, over-used idea—the hero wanted by the police.

Now, if Gardner Fox has been assigned to write a story around that cover, he would've made it some fantastic trick on *Batman's* part. John Broome would've done the exact same thing as Fox. (Broome always does—I think those guys are Siamese twins!) Bill Finger stories are obvious 'cause he always puts some kind of giant object in them. (Pick up any pre-New Look *Batman*; chances are that some crook's robbing an exhibit where there are giant toys, clocks, musical instruments, etc.)

As the plot went, the writer took a trite cover and turned it into a trite plot with enough novel twists to make it the *best Batman* story in over three issues. (High praise, indeed!)

—Mark Evanier, Los Angeles, Cal.

(Sorry, story-wise it was Gardner Fox all the way. —Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

May I compliment you on a superb job in issue 201 of *Batman*. I've been waiting a long time to see a number of *Batman's* foes team up against him. But instead of being against him they were in the story to help him. Yes, the story line of "Batman's Gangland Guardians" intrigued me very much. I haven't enjoyed a *Batman* yarn as much since issue 180, with its outstanding "Death Knocks Three Times."

—David Combs, Burbank, Cal.

(From "superb" to "unbelievable"—that's the range of ratings on #201's story—as we graciously allow a famous lemming to have the last word. —Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

Of all the unbelievable stories you have ever published, "Batman's Gangland Guardians" takes the cake! While I can swallow, with few doubts, the idea that *seven* of *Batman's* toughest, wildest foes would gather together and work to save his life (of all the implausible things!), I find it *impossible* to believe that they could refrain from attempting a series of double-crosses. It is *absurd*; for years I've been reading about these villains and their congenital inability to "go straight". Why should the opportunity to save *Batman's* life preoccupy *all* of them to such an extent that none of them behaves as if they really are criminals they profess to be? These are complex people, all with a demonstrated ability to say one thing and do another. Being involved in honest work for a change isn't going to change them—certainly not all *seven* of them! Bring true to character traits means *more* than just a series of one-line speeches consisting of terrible puns that not even *Robin* would use!

—Irene Vartanoff, Lake Forest, Ill.

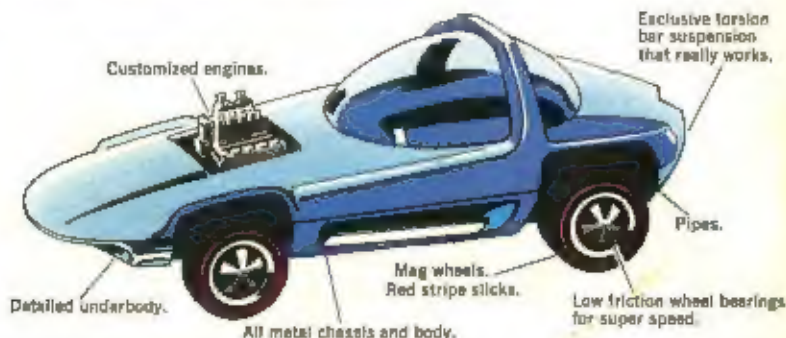
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